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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/774,007 | 02/09/2004 | Monte B. Willis | 7676 | 8999 |

31253 7590 11/15/2004

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EXAMINER

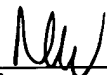
NGUYEN, SON T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3643

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/774,007 | Applicant(s) WILLIS, MONTE | |
| | Examiner Son T. Nguyen | Art Unit 3643 |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The phrase "the posts" lacks prior antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6557328 (herein 328).

For claims 1 & 2, 328 teaches a saddle fender bender comprising a plate of sheet metal 22 that is bent to have and retain an arc of approximately 90 degrees and having a length to extend at least partially across a lower portion of a saddle fender; a plurality of Chicago screws 24', 24"; means (see figs. 4 or 5, openings in the plate where screw 24" fits therethrough) for receiving each of the screws along the inner arc surface of the plate 22 and the screw's broad head end undersurface engages with an outer surface edge of a hole formed through the fender wherethrough the screw is passed. However, 328 is silent about the plate of sheet metal being a bar formed from a straight

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section of metal bar stock that is bent across its longest parallel sides and has a rectangular cross section, and the screws being bolts with broad head end threaded along a bolt shaft. It would have been an obvious substitution of functional equivalent to substitute the plate of sheet metal as taught by 328 with a bar formed from a straight section of metal bar stock that is bent across its longest parallel sides and has a rectangular cross section as claimed by the present invention, since both the plate and bar would perform to correct the free-hanging stirrup orientation in order to make mounting easier and safer for the rider. In addition, it would have been an obvious substitution of functional equivalent to substitute the Chicago screw of 328 with a bolt as claimed by the present invention, since both types of fastener would perform to attach the fender bender to the fender and stirrup.

For claim 3, figure 5 of 328 shows a post (near ref. 24" on the back side where ref. 24" fits therein) which fits through a hole in the fender bender 22.

For claim 4, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach the posts of 328 by soldering or brazing, for such process is notoriously well known in the art of fastening method.

For claim 5, 328 teaches the fender bender 22 arched inner surface is drilled to create the hole where bolt/screw fits therein.

For claims 6-8, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a bolt with means to receive a turning tool in the fender bender apparatus of 328, for such bolt with means to receive a turning tool


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such as a Phillips head screw driver or Allen wrench is notoriously well known in the fastening art.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-0765. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 9:00 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter M. Poon can be reached on 703-308-2574. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Son T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3643

stn